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A KLAN ORGANIZER MADE VISIT TO RAY

J. B. Stoner Talks With the Prisoner of Aiding Defense

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MEMPHIS, Oct. 2 — J. B. Stoner, known as an organizer of the National States Rights party and the Ku Klux Klan and as an apostle of anti-Negro violence, visited James Earl Ray in his Memphis jail cell last Saturday.

Mr. Stoner, who has lived in Atlanta and Augusta, Ga., discussed with Ray the possibility of his joining in Ray's defense against a charge that he murdered the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. last April.

Ray's attorney, Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, refused to accept Mr. Stoner as an associate in the defense.

In Birmingham, Ala., where he lives, Mr. Hanes said that he had no comment.

"But I don't mind saying that I would not allow that man Stoner to be associated in any case that I was involved in," Mr. Hanes said.

An Exchange of Letters

Before visiting Ray in the Shelby County Jail at Memphis, Mr. Stoner had been writing letters to and receiving letters from Ray since the escaped convict was arrested in London on June 10.

At one point in this exchange of letters, the National States Rights party offered to pay for Ray's defense.

Ray's invitation to Stoner prompted Mr. Hanes to announce to Criminal Judge W. Preston Battle in a courtroom in Memphis last Friday that "serious differences" had arisen between Mr. Hanes and Ray and that he might withdraw as Ray's attorney.

On Monday, Mr. Hanes told Judge Battle, who has been assigned to try the murder charge against Ray, that the differences had been resolved and that he would remain as Ray's attorney.

In his letters to Ray, Stoner had suggested that several publications might be sued for having referred to Ray as the "killer of Dr. King" and as a "killer."

Support Reported for Stoner

Ray's brothers were reported to have advised Ray to accept Stoner as a defense attorney and to follow his advice.

Stoner has been known since 1947 as a Ku Klux Klan organizer and, later, as an attorney and organizer for the National States Rights party.

The National States Rights party, which has a limited membership, was founded in Birmingham and was later moved to Savannah, Ga., by Dr. Edward Fields, a chiropractor.

Dr. Fields in June made public the National States Rights party offer to finance Ray's defense.

Stoner and a colleague, C. C. Lynch, were active in opposition to civil rights movements in the South for the last 10 years.